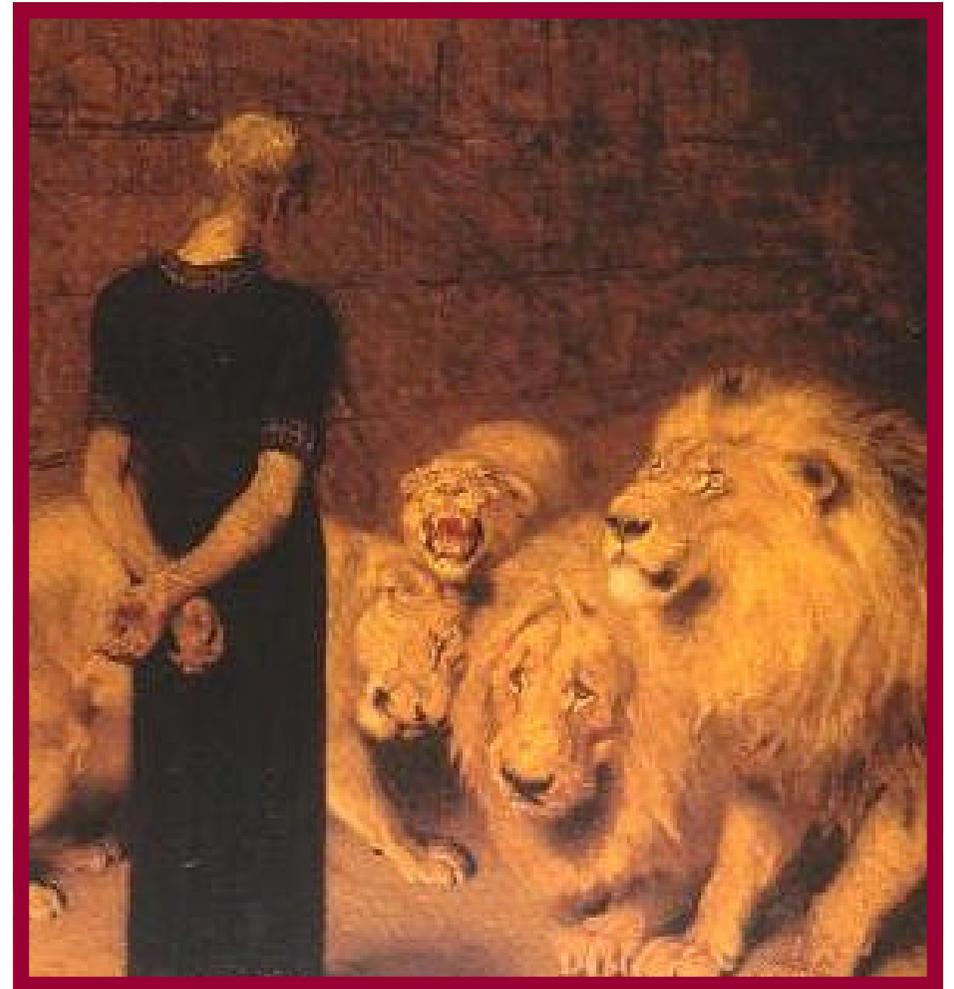


LIVING WELL IN EXILE



DANIEL 1-7

Week 5

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Week 6

Study 1

Daniel 1

Week 3

Living Well in Exile

READ

Love the LORD Your God with all your Mind



Big Idea

In Babylon Daniel and his friends are faced with the challenge of living as God's people in an alien land—how will they face this difficult task?

1. According to Daniel 1.1-2 and 2 Kings 23.36-24.7, what is the background to the book of Daniel?

The first deportation of 10,000 citizens with the king from Jerusalem in 597 BC to Babylon.

2. Read Genesis 11.1-9. What is Babylon a symbol of?

Human pride and arrogance—attempting to build a kingdom where the true God has no place.

3. How does the writer of Daniel affirm that the Lord is still in control of this disaster even though the articles of the Temple are carried off by Nebuchadnezzar to the temple of his god v2?

Because it says that, 'the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah

4. How is the situation of the Jewish exiles in Babylon in 597 BC similar or dissimilar to our situation in Sydney 2008?

5. There are three options that present themselves to the exiles as to how they will respond to Babylon, as there are for us in Sydney: withdrawal, assimilation, and positive infiltration. Describe what you understand by these terms.

Week 4

Prayer Points

Week 1

1. Withdrawal—have little or nothing to do with the culture—only have Christian friends and a Christian butcher and a Christian ...
2. Assimilation—adopt the culture of Babylon or Sydney completely, blend in and lose your identity.
3. Positive infiltration—work for the city, serve it but don't lose your identity so you can benefit it.

Read the rest of Daniel 1.

6. Which option does Daniel and his friends go for?

Positive infiltration

7. How did Babylon try and assert its control over the four young exiles?

Opportunity
Dependence
Education
Names

8. How did Daniel and his friends assert their independence of Babylon and their dependence on the Lord?

The refused to eat what the king set before them and ate only vegetables.

9. Did Daniel and his friends make the most of the opportunities given them?
How v20?

They obviously worked hard and excelled in their studies.

10. How does Jesus' command to his disciples in Matt.28.18-20 show a similar pattern to what we find in Daniel?

Week 2

MEDITATE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Heart



This week spend some time meditating on Matthew 28:18

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

PRAY

Love the LORD Your God with all your Soul



Below write a prayer to God asking for wisdom to avoid both withdrawal and assimilation and live in a way that honours Jesus and serves those around you.

LIVE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Strength



How can you bring, in the power of the Son of Man, humanity into your world at home and work?

MEDITATE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Heart



This week spend some time meditating on Mark 1.12-13, Luke 12.32

Mark 1:12-13 ¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, ¹³ and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

Luke 12:32 ³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

PRAY

Love the LORD Your God with all your Soul



Below write a prayer asking the Lord to help you see the victory of Jesus and to enter into that victory in your own life.

LIVE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Strength



What two things can you do that will contribute positively to your neighbourhood or workplace?

Study 2

Daniel 2

I Had a Dream

READ

Love the LORD Your God with all your Mind



Nebuchadnezzar's dream, as interpreted by Daniel reminds us that God's kingdom will ultimately be victorious over the kingdom of man.

1. What does Nebuchadnezzar want the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers to tell him v2 ?

The dream that he had as well as the interpretation.

2. Why do you think that Nebuchadnezzar asked what seems such an unreasonable request 2.2-13?

Because he knew that it was a really important dream and he didn't want to be misled.

3. What do the the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers tell him about the enormity of what he is asking them to do 2.11?

It's too difficult—no one can reveal it except the gods and they don't live among men.

4. How did Daniel respond to the news that he and his friends were about to be executed with the rest of the the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers 2.14-18?

Asked for time to pray and asked for prayer

5. How did Daniel respond to answered prayer and what does this teach us about our prayers?

2. What does the stone in Daniel 2 relate to in the vision of Daniel 7?

The Son of Man

3. How is the Son of Man like Adam?

Adam was given authority over the animal world to subdue it.

4. How is the Son of Man like the Son of God/Messiah/King of Israel in Psalm 2?

The king will conquer the rebellious nations

5. How does the victory of the Son of Man in 7.13-14 relate to the victory of the saints?

The victory of the Son of Man is a victory that the saints enter into.

6. What is the picture of victory outlined in Daniel 7.26-27?

The world at peace under the rule of God

7. How does Jesus fulfil the picture of the Son of Man, Matt. 28.18-20?

8. What part of the story of the Son of Man is still happening, Acts 1.1-11?

The Son of Man has gone in the clouds he will come in the clouds and it is time to proclaim the kingdom to the nations

Study 7

Daniel 7

Who's the King of the Beasts?

READ

Love the LORD Your God with all your Mind



Big Idea

The world's kingdoms when unmasked are beast like—but just as Adam named and controlled the beasts, the Lord has a new man—the Son of Man who has been given authority to be the king of the beasts.

1. Daniel's dream is like Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Take time to read both passages and relate one to the other using the pictures.

He prayed a prayer of thanks—we should keep a note of what we pray for so we can return thanks to the God who listens..

6. How did Daniel preface the revealing of the dream to Nebuchadnezzar 2.27-28?

He gave the glory to God.

7. What does the movement from gold to iron/clay of the statue symbolize in the dream?

A Movement from valuable to less valuable, 'softness to hardness/brittleness'

8. What does the rock, not cut with human hands that smashes the feet of the statue symbolize, and what is the contrast between stone and metal?

The kingdom of God that is not man made, and that this kingdom will ultimately win over the kingdoms of men.

9. With the story of Daniel 2 ringing in your ears what do you think Jesus is saying to Pilate in John 18.36?

His kingdom is the kingdom of God not the kingdom of man.

MEDITATE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Heart



This week spend some time meditating on Matthew 28:18

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." *(yes I know we did it last week)*

PRAY

Love the LORD Your God with all your Soul



Below write a Prayer asking for God's kingdom to come.

LIVE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Strength



How can you improve you life witness to the people you live with, or work with?

MEDITATE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Heart



This week spend some time meditating on **Philippians 1:27-28**

²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved-- and that by God.

PRAY

Love the LORD Your God with all your Soul



Below write a prayer for a life worthy of the gospel.

LIVE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Strength



If the kingdom of God is to be ultimately victorious how can you demonstrate that you believe that in your actions now?

Study 3 Daniel 3

Knowing When to Say NO

READ

Love the LORD Your God with all your Mind



Big Idea

Sometimes maintaining our identity as those who worship the True God will cost us dearly. Are we prepared to count the cost?

Read Daniel 3 in the Bible Study aloud as a play. You will need—Narrator, Herald, Astrologer, Nebuchadnezzar, one person representing Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

1. How does Nebuchadnezzar attempt to develop coherence in his empire?

He tries to unite everyone in a state religion.

2. Is there anything here about Nebuchadnezzar saying that the Jews couldn't worship the Lord. So what is going on?

None whatsoever. So what is probably happening is a state funded add on in the same way in the Roman Empire everyone was expected to show loyalty to Rome by emperor worship.

3. Are there any parallels with the situation in Babylon and Sydney 2008?

I think there are what our culture is wanting from us is to relativise our belief in Jesus, to keep it private and don't bring it out into the open, the public arena is no place for God.

4. Why do you think the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers 'dobbled' in Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego?

They were jealous Daniel 2.49

5. Why do you think the king makes such a dumb unalterable law?

Because they appealed to his vanity and pride.

6. How did Daniel respond?

He put his head in the noose and kept on praying with his window open

7. Daniel being thrown into the lion's den and what subsequently happens reminds us of what happened to Jesus. How is it similar and how is it different?

Similar

Tomb like situation

A place of death

Signet rings and seals.

Different

Daniel didn't die

Daniel's enemies were destroyed Jesus died for his enemies

8. How is Darius's letter like a gospel proclamation?

Because it is a message going throughout the world announcing how God has saved

Study 6 Daniel 6

The Lion King

READ

Love the LORD Your God with all your Mind



Big Idea

Given a choice between death and trusting in the Lord Daniel chooses death but receives life.

Read Daniel 6 in the Bible Study aloud as a play. You will need—Narrator, a spokesman for the satraps, King Darius, Daniel.

1. Why did King Darius organise an administration in the way he did v2?

So that he might not suffer loss.

2. Why do you think the administrators and satraps had it in for Daniel v3-4?

Because Daniel was getting promoted and they were jealous and I suspect worried that his integrity might impact on their lack of integrity if he was supervising them.

3. How effective were the administrators and satraps in digging up dirt on Daniel? Why?

They weren't successful because unlike them he was neither corrupt or negligent.

4. If you can't have a legitimate reason for getting rid of someone, manufacture one. What did they know was Daniel's 'Achilles heel'?

His faithfulness to the Lord.

5. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's speech to Nebuchadnezzar is fascinating. What do they think God will do and what do they know they won't do?

The Lord might save them if he wants but they know they will not worship the gold statue.

6. What is it about this speech that makes Nebuchadnezzar so angry and how is this an example of what Paul talks about in Philippians 1.27-28?

They embrace the consequences of their actions with confidence.

7. In the place of torment and judgement Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego find life through one who looks like a son of the gods. Reflect on the centurion's statement at the cross in Mark 15.39.

8. How tolerant did this experience make Nebuchadnezzar 3.28-30?

Not very.

7. How do we show tolerance and conviction in our culture?

We don't kill people for what they believe we don't discriminate, we can disagree but in all of that we seek their best even if they harm us.

MEDITATE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Heart



This week spend some time meditating on **Philippians 1:27-28**

²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved- and that by God.

PRAY

Love the LORD Your God with all your Soul



Below write a prayer asking the Lord to give you wisdom to know when to say **NO** and the courage to do it..

LIVE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Strength



Take the opportunities the Lord gives you this week to tell others about the Lord Jesus.

MEDITATE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Heart



This week spend some time meditating on 1 Corinthians 1:18

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

PRAY

Love the LORD Your God with all your Soul



Below write a prayer asking the Lord to give you opportunities to tell people about the Lord Jesus.

LIVE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Strength



Can you identify places where you feel threatened about confessing Christ? What is the threat?

Study 4

Daniel 4

The Emperor's New Clothes

READ

Love the LORD Your God with all your Mind



Big Idea

The Kingdom of Man always gravitates toward pride and independence from God. The Lord always has ways of cutting the proud down to size.

Read Daniel 4 in the Bible Study aloud as a play. You will need—Narrator, Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar (Daniel).

1. How humbling would it be for Nebuchadnezzar to write this letter?

Pretty humbling—he has to admit that he was arrogant and wouldn't take the warning of the Lord.

2. What is similar and what is different in the request Nebuchadnezzar makes of his wise men in Daniel 2?

He doesn't ask them to tell him the vision/dream.
The wise men don't know the interpretation.
Daniel does know the interpretation.

3. Why do you think Daniel was perplexed and terrified. What does it show us about his attitude to Nebuchadnezzar?

Daniel is not I think afraid for himself but he is afraid for Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel cares about what happens to this leader and the empire he rules over.

4. How does Daniel show his concern for the king in the interpretation?

4. Did Daniel charge in and denounce the king? What does his demeanour tell us about how we should deal with those who ask our advice?

We don't always have to offer gratuitous advice but when asked we need to be clear and forthright.

5. Nebuchadnezzar wasn't Belshazzar's immediate father but he was related to him, how does Daniel use the story of Nebuchadnezzar to make the point to Belshazzar

But using great king Neb. As an example he is able to draw a living lesson of the foolishness of pride.

6. What has Belshazzar done that is particularly prideful?

Misused the Temple utensils

8. Why do you think Belshazzar treated Daniel the way he did?

Because he was convicted of the truth of what he said.

9. Notice that part of Daniel's winsomeness is that he was telling a difficult message that came from God, he was the channel that it came through. How is this a helpful principle when we are telling people about judgement?

This is not what I am saying this is what Jesus says. If you have a beef it's not with me it's with him.

10. Do people who tell God's gospel truth always get rewarded? Give some examples.

Jesus
Paul
Peter
Maybe you

Study 5 Daniel 5

God's Graffiti

READ

Love the LORD Your God with all your Mind



Big Idea

Belshazzar's complete disrespect of the Lord is met with judgement.

Read Daniel 5 in the Bible Study aloud as a play. You will need—Narrator, Belshazzar, the Queen, Daniel.

Background

Cyrus is on the very doorstep of Babylon. Death is very close to Belshazzar.

1. What does Belshazzar do with death approaching?

He throws a wild party—concubines weren't normally invited to the parties, gets drunk and does some stupid religious stuff with the articles from the Temple of the Lord.

2. Why do you think he behaved like this?

To put off any thought of his impending death and grab at the bit of life that he could.

3. How do we in our culture respond to death in the same way?

We ignore it, party, purchase things or are religious

He doesn't hide anything and he gives advice to the king—acknowledge heaven (God) rules your kingdom and show that by doing good.

5. What did Nebuchadnezzar fail to see lay behind all of his abilities and accomplishments Dan. 4.17?

That God is in control and that the Lord gave him his abilities, opportunities and 'fortune'.

6. How easy is it to be like Nebuchadnezzar when we have worked hard for something? Why?

Incredibly hard

7. How does Paul get the balance right in 1 Corinthians 15.10 and Philippians 2.12-13?

He has worked hard and acknowledges that it is God's grace working in him and we are to do the same.

8. What was the lesson Nebuchadnezzar eventually learned?

He was a creature and needed to behave as such.

This week spend some time meditating on 1 Corinthians 10:12

MEDITATE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Heart



¹² So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

PRAY

Love the LORD Your God with all your Soul



Below write a prayer thanking God for giving you the abilities you have, for being able to accomplish what you have and ask God to lead you into the future.

LIVE

Love the LORD Your God with all your Strength



Work hard for the Lord knowing that your labour is not in vain and don't forget to thank him for what you are able to achieve.